

**Northern Rhode Island Conservation District**

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

**February 7, 2007**

**7:00 PM**

**Jean called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.**

**In attendance were:**

**Directors-Jean Lynch, Paul Dolan and Marc Tremblay – Associate  
Director-Dick Went – NRCS-Michael Merrill – Staff-Gina DeMarco and  
Wendy Hoyle.**

**Absent were:**

**Directors-Norm Hammond and Eugene Pepper – Associate  
Directors-Cathryn MacDonald and Ed Baker**

### **I. Minutes**

**Motion was made to accept the January 3rd meeting minutes,**

**Paul/Marc. Vote**

**was unanimous.**

## **II. Treasurer's Reports**

**The financial reports were distributed and it was noted that the board was in receipt of these reports.**

## **III. Old Business**

### **a. Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program**

**-On March 5th there will be a water quality workshop at the Scituate Community House.**

**-Gina was co-chair of the RI Drinking Water Week; Providence Water does not**

**want Gina to continue working on this committee under the contract with them. The**

**district is not sure if they will still be involved in the Drinking Water Day celebration**

**in May. We are waiting to hear from Providence Water to know how to proceed.**

**-The poster contest information packets have been completed and will be going to the schools shortly.**

**-This years business bulletins focuses on stormwater and are almost complete.**

**b. Lease**

**The board would like the lease retyped to reflect the correct information on the**

**first page and add a category “Landlords Responsibilities” with information on**

**what the landlord needs to do pertaining to maintaining the building.**

**c. Living on a Waterfront**

**The Burrillville workshop will be March 29th at Burrillville High School. They**

**plan to have a panel of speakers addressing water quality and recreational issues.**

**The East Providence workshop is tentatively for March 21st. Cindy Gianfrancesco**

**will be speaking at both workshops.**

**d. Northern District Fund Raiser**

**The District dance fund raiser will be held at the Knights of Columbus Bouffard**

**Consult in North Providence on May 18th. The tickets for the dance will be either**

**\$10 or \$12 each and raffle tickets will go for \$2.00. We decided to target the**

proceeds of the fundraiser to be used for conservation education programs for children. Jean will check into obtaining a permit for the raffle.

**e. Northern District Secretary**

Marc was nominated to be the Northern District secretary.

Motion was made to accept the nomination, Jean/Paul. Vote was unanimous.

**f. Pocasset Project**

A meeting was held with Mayor Polseno of Johnston. He listened to what NRCS

plans were for the project. Mayor Polseno will consider signing the contract when

he is given more details of the costs involved. The mayor of Cranston did not attend

and another meeting will be scheduled for Cranston. NRCS has not received a

commitment for the funding at this time. Senator Reed is planning a press release

on the completed report.

**IV. Reports**

**a. Chair**

Jean spoke on the metals recycling plant and how they have

made improvements,  
including wetland restoration.

The Woonasquatucket bike path is in good shape and plans a celebration event when it is completed. The Woonasquatucket Council receive \$8,000 from their fundraising letter campaign.

**b. NRCS**

**-Mike distributed the conservation report.**

**-They have received an WHIP application from the Town of Lincoln on the Limerock Dam and 3 WHIP applications for fish ladders on the Blackstone.**

**NRCS is waiting to see how the farm bill will be disseminated for the new year.**

**-A new assistance conservationist will start on March 4th.**

**-NRCS would like to work with the Scituate Land Trust on a restoration project**

**that would connect riparians along the Peepoad and Huntinghouse Brooks. They**

**have \$750,000 to purchase development rights on easements; which would be a**

**way of leveraging land trusts monies. The districts assistance would be needed**

**for outreach.**

**c. Envirothon**

**The Envirothon competition will be Thursday, May 17th.**

**d. RC&D**

**The Northeast regional meeting will be in RI this year October 17th-19th.**

**They are working with DEM on forestry management to private landowners**

**under the FLEP program and the fire assistance program.**

**e. RIFCO**

**RIFCO is planning an estate planning workshop on March 10th.**

**RIFCO is**

**doing the outreach of forestry management for the NRCS CIG project at**

**Freidrickson's Nursery.**

**f. District Manager**

**-Gina distributed the 2007-2008 proposed budget and plan of work. The board**

**took these home to review.**

**-The small acreage livestock program will be meeting February 20th; Norm will**

**be out of town and is looking for someone to cover for him.**

**-Thursday February 15th, there will be a presentation on 'Keep a Lid on Natural**

**Resources' in Sturbridge, put on by SWCS.**

**-The 2007 Land and Water Summit will be March 24th at URI.**

## **V. New Business**

### **a. Envirothon Request**

**The Envirothon Committee sent a letter asking the district for a \$500 contribution.**

**Motion was made to contribute \$500 to the Envirothon, Marc/Jean. Vote was unanimous.**

### **b. CIG Proposal**

**Roylene has offered the 3 districts the opportunity to oversee the Conservation**

**Innovative Grant program. The grant will be covered by EQIP funds and is a**

**program that promotes landowners to develop innovative ways to improve their**

**farming practices. The district managers and Roylene will be meeting to discuss**

**this further. NRCS is no longer paying for the districts phones lines, cable, paper**

**and ink and felt this may be a good way of assisting the districts. At this time,**

**NRCS has a freeze on entering any new agreements, but**

**Roylene is putting in a**

**waiver. Tom and Alicia are more familiar with this program and feel this would be good for the districts.**

**c. Seedling Sale**

**The brochures are ready and will be mailed before the end of February. Paul and Marc have signed up to assist on Friday.**

**d. Veolia Water**

**Veolia Water is an international water company that includes water distribution and sewer treatment plants. Gina has spoken to them regarding doing outreach and education for them. They run the Smithfield, Cranston and Westerly sewage treatment plants.**

**VI. Other**

**Gina met with owner of New Dawn Earth Center in Cumberland. It is an education center on 270 acres that has received a grant to run for 1 year. Gina provided them with a copy of the AWEsome curriculum and will speak to Mike**



**about a WHIP**

**grant.**

**Motion was made to adjourn at 9:30 pm, Paul/Marc. Vote-unanimous.**